WIKIPEDIA 25
25 years of the free encyclopedia

Karen David

Karen Shenaz David[1] (born 15 April 1979[2][3][4]) is a Canadian and British[5] actress, singer, and songwriter, best known for portraying Princess Isabella Maria Lucia Elizabetta of Valencia in ABC's fairytale-themed musical-comedy television series *Galavant*, as well as the Head of Spanish, Cesca Montoya, in the BBC One school-based drama series *Waterloo Road*, and Layla in the American action film *The Scorpion King 2: Rise of a Warrior*. She starred as Angela in the ITV television series *Cold Feet*, and played Princess Jasmine/Shirin in the sixth season of *Once Upon a Time*.

She had a recurring role on The CW's *Legacies* as Emma, a guidance counselor and witch, and played regular character Grace Mukherjee in *Fear the Walking Dead*.

She has had a recurring role as former MI6 agent Rose Dinshaw on NBC's *The Irrational*.

Karen David

David in 2017

Background information

Born	15 April 1979 Shillong, Meghalaya, India
Genres	Pop
Occupations	Actress, singer, songwriter
Instrument	Vocals
Years active	1999–present
Label	AWAL

Early life

David was born in Shillong, Meghalaya, India,[6] to a family of "Chinese, Khasi and a sliver of Jewish heritage".[7] Her mother is of Khasi-Indian and Chinese descent, while her father is Indian-Jewish.[8] She was raised in Canada and then at age 17, David moved to Britain to study at the Guildford School of Acting. She then moved back to Canada for a time in the late 1990s, studying radio and television arts at Ryerson University in Toronto.[7]

Career

Acting

Upon finishing drama school, David joined the original cast of the West End musical *Mamma Mia!*. She made her professional acting debut as part of the ensemble and as understudy of Ali and Lisa. A. R. Rahman, who had been invited to see the show by the director Shekhar Kapur, asked David to

assist him and Don Black in the development of the material for the Bollywood-themed musical *Bombay Dreams*. She performed songs on the show's US and Canada tour, and continued collaborating with Rahman at his Panchathan Record Inn and AM Studios in Chennai, India.[9]

She appeared in the music clip "Higher & Higher" (2000) and in two short television videos, *Dancers: The Trailer* (2002), playing the role of Jenny, and *The Paper Round* (2002), playing the role of a policewoman. She then landed a role in the musical *Bollywood Queen* (2003), as a member of the R&B band at the story's center.[10][11] Through 2004 and 2005, she played Scarlet in MTV's *Top Buzzer*.

David played Lyla, a main character in the London-based film *Take 3 Girls* (2006). Other work during this time includes Steven Seagal's *Flight of Fury* (2007) as Barnes' Operational Soldier Flanders, *The Colour of Magic* (2008) as Liessa, the Dragonlady, and *The Legend of Dick and Dom* (2009) as Fairy Frampton. David appeared as the female lead, Layla, in *The Scorpion King 2: Rise of a Warrior* (2008), filmed in Cape Town, South Africa.[12][13][14][15]

In September 2010, David played the Spanish teacher, Francesca "Cesca" Montoya, in series six of BBC One's drama, *Waterloo Road*. While *Waterloo Road* was still airing, David landed the role of legend hunter Alexia Alderton in *Pixelface*, a CBBC children's comedy series about six video game characters and what they do when they are not inside their games. The second series aired on 3 January 2012.[16]

David appeared on American television with a guest role on the Fox series *Touch* in 2012, playing Kayla Graham. On the episode she performed the song "Three Little Birds", which was then released as a soundtrack single with Wendy & Lisa by 20th Century Fox TV Records on 28 February 2012.[17]

In February 2013, David appeared in the two-part episode "Target" of the ABC TV series *Castle*, in the USA. David played Sara El-Masri, daughter of Egyptian tycoon, Anwar El-Masri.[18] Whilst filming these episodes, David and a stuntman were injured when the door to the moving van they were in failed to close properly. David was placed in a neck brace, while the stuntman sustained serious head injuries.[19][20]

David has reappeared on US televisions, as *"Princess Isabella Maria Lucia Elizabetta of Valencia"*, in the ABC television series *Galavant*, which premiered on 4 January 2015, for a four-week extravaganza.[18]

In 2019, David joined the cast of *Fear the Walking Dead* as Grace Mukherjee and stayed with the series until the start of the final season.

Music

David released her first single, "It's Me (You're Talking To)", in 2003, when she was signed to BMG Music. This single was a top 10 airplay hit in Germany, Austria and Switzerland.[21]

She collaborated with A. R. Rahman on the main theme song for the film *Provoked* in 2006. After working alongside Rahman to produce the soundtrack for this movie, she found herself back with him in his Chennai studio, in 2007, to write and record the song, "Alive".[22] The following year she

released her first EP, *The Live Sessions EP*.[23] In 2009 she released her next EP, *Magic Carpet Ride*.[24]

In May 2010, David released the single "Hypnotize", alongside three mixes[25] and a *Hypnotize Desi Mix* EP. The following year she released the album *The Girl in the Pink Glasses*. 20th Century Fox TV Records released "Three Little Birds", as sung by Kayla Graham (David), on *Touch*, on 28 February 2012.

In 2013, David released her final personal recording to-date, the EP *Dust to Stars*, on which she collaborated with songwriter-producers Stefan Skarbek, Carl Ryden, Boots Ottestad, Adam Argyle and Martin Brammer.[26] Since then, she has been a member of the 2015 and 2016 cast soundtracks for *Galavant*.

Charity work

David is active in Designers Against Aids[27] and the SOS Children's Villages Foundation.[28]

She produced a T-shirt to raise money for ActionAid's PoverTee Day, which was auctioned off on 18 June 2010.[29] In December 2010, David released a charity Christmas EP, *My Christmas List*, to raise money for the housing and homelessness charity Shelter.[30]

Alongside others, David painted a self-portrait to help raise funds for *Face Britain*, a project of The Prince's Trust Foundation.[31]

Personal life

In 2013, she married Swedish songwriter and music producer Carl Ryden,[32] at La Venta Inn in Palos Verdes Peninsula, California.[33]

Filmography

Film

Year	Title	Role
2003	*Bollywood Queen*	Neeta
2005	*Batman Begins*	Courthouse Reporter No. 1
2006	*Take 3 Girls*	Lyla
	Provoked	Asha
2007	*Flight of Fury*	Barnes's Operational Soldier Flanders
2008	*The Scorpion King 2: Rise of a Warrior*	Layla
	The Colour of Magic	Liessa
2009	*Couples Retreat*	Spa Attendant
2012	*Red Lights*	Dana
2014	*Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit*	Penn
2015	*Amar, Akbar & Tony*	Meera
2016	*The Tiger Hunter*	Ruby Iqbal
2022	*Land of Gold*	Asha
	When Christmas Was Young	Melody Douglass
2024	*Isabel's Garden*	Maya

Television

Year	Title	Role	Notes
2003	*Holby City*	Eve Hotton	1 episode
2004	*Top Buzzer*	Scarlet	
2009	*The Legend of Dick and Dom*	Fairy Frampton	
2010–2011	*Waterloo Road*	Francesca "Cesca" Montoya	Main cast; 20 episodes (series 6)
2011	*Strike Back: Project Dawn*	Barmaid	2 episodes
2011–2012	*Pixelface*	Alexia	Main cast; 26 episodes
2012	*Touch*	Kayla Graham	1 episode
2013	*Castle*	Sara El-Masri	2 episodes
2015–2016	*Galavant*	Princess Isabella	Main cast
2016–2017	*Once Upon a Time*	Princess Jasmine	Recurring role; 9 episodes
2016	*Cold Feet*	Angela Zubayr	
2018	*Criminal Minds*	Special Agent Mary Meadows	2 episodes
2018–2022	*Barry*	Sharon Lucado	4 episodes
2018–2021	*Legacies*	Emma Tig	Recurring role (seasons 1–2) Guest role (seasons 3–4)
2018	*Timeless*	Young Denise Christopher	Episode: "The Day Reagan Was Shot"
2019–2023	*Fear the Walking Dead*	Grace Mukherjee	Main cast (seasons 5–8); 29 episodes
2019–2020	*The Rookie*	Detective Rita Calderon	2 episodes
2020–2022	*Mira, Royal Detective*	Shilpa, Ashima and Rubi (voice)	Recurring roles
2023–2025	*The Irrational*	Rose Dinshaw	11 episodes
2025	*We Were Liars*	Maya	Episode: When Lies Give You Lemons
2026	*Tracker*	Dr. Evie Martell	Episode: Do No Harm

TV/Video shorts

Year	Title	Role	Notes
2002	*Dancers: The Trailer*	Jenny	
	The Paper Round	Police Woman	

Video games

Year	Title	Role	Notes
2016	*Dead Rising 4*	Vicky "Vick" Chu	Voice role
	Mirror's Edge Catalyst	Isabel Kruger	
2024	*Call of Duty: Black Ops 6*	Sevati Dumas	Voice role and performance capture[34]
2025	*Ghost of Yōtei*	Huci The Shaman	

Other

Year	Title	Role	Notes
2003	*The Making of Bollywood Queen (video documentary)*	Herself	
2005	*Eureka (commercial)*	Police Woman	
2008	*The Making of The Scorpion King 2: The Rise of a Warrior (video documentary short)*	Herself	

Music videos

Music videos

Date	Song title
2000	Higher and Higher (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DHOrJhDIjW4) on YouTube
2003	It's Me (You're Talking To)
Jun 2007	Alive
Jun 2009	Magic Carpet Ride (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W29VvYBNnc4) on YouTube
Apr 2010	Hypnotize (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R2pRdQatzSI) on YouTube
Jun 2011	Superheroes (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wWHvJPqpsLM) on YouTube
July 2013	Daydreamer (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qrDy9JE55Zw) on YouTube
Aug 2013	Dust to Stars (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_MPSaSRwkFk) on YouTube

Remixes/radio edits

Year	Song title
Jul 2009	Magic Carpet Ride : Radio edit (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q2DkMuGmYtg) on YouTube
Jul 2009	Magic Carpet Ride : Flavasia Desi Mix (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rv_7ovkLN-M) on YouTube
Sep 2010	Hypnotize : The Definitive Radio Mix (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Omfb_rMGyk) on YouTube
Sep 2010	Hypnotize : The Almighty Mix (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YiqlU0U2VzQ) on YouTube

References

1. David, Karen [@KarenDavid] (23 March 2011). "@S471M Shenaz is my middle name. :)" (https://web.archive.org/web/20170104000606/https://twitter.com/KarenDavid/status/50631491331424256) (Tweet). Archived from the original (https://twitter.com/KarenDavid/status/50631491331424256) on 4 January 2017. Retrieved 8 October 2021 – via Twitter.
2. Karen David [@KarenDavid] (15 April 2010). "TEAM KD - hey it is Karen David's birthday today!" (https://twitter.com/KarenDavid/status/12214936142) (Tweet). Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20170104000739/https://twitter.com/KarenDavid/status/12214936142) from the original on 4 January 2017. Retrieved 3 January 2017 – via Twitter.
3. Christie, Janet (10 September 2016). "Karen David on joining established cast of Cold Feet" (http://www.scotsman.com/lifestyle/culture/tv-radio/karen-david-on-joining-established-cast-of-cold-feet-1-4226517). *The Scotsman*. Edinburgh, Scotland. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20170104000413/http://www.scotsman.com/lifestyle/culture/tv-radio/karen-david-on-joining-established-cast-of-cold-feet-1-4226517) from the original on 4 January 2017. Retrieved 3 January 2017. "Born in Shillong, India in 1979, to a Chinese-Khasi mother and Indian father, David was brought up in Toronto."
4. "The 7 Most Exciting Newcomers on TV This Season" (http://www.elle.com/culture/movies-tv/news/a19722/the-new-class/). *Elle*. United States. 7 January 2015. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20150109035207/http://www.elle.com/culture/movies-tv/news/a19722/the-new-class/) from the original on 9 January 2015. Retrieved 25 February 2017. "Karen David, 35..."
5. Gagne, Emily (26 January 2015). "Meet Karen David, the Toronto student who became a Disney princess" (https://www.shedoesthecity.com/meet-karen-david-toronto-student-became-disney-princess/). *SheDoesTheCity*. Retrieved 20 April 2026.
6. "Karen David Interview" (http://www.femalefirst.co.uk/celebrity_interviews/Karen+David-52782.html). Femalefirst.co.uk. 16 June 2008. Retrieved 8 January 2014.
7. "Karen David goes from Waterloo Road to exotic pop." (https://web.archive.org/web/20140107001057/http://www.wandsworthguardian.co.uk/leisure/music/8390244.Karen_David_goes_from_Waterloo_Road_to_exotic_pop___/) *Wandsworth Guardian*. UK. 17 September 2010. Archived from the original (http://www.wandsworthguardian.co.uk/leisure/music/8390244.Karen_David_goes_from_Waterloo_Road_to_exotic_pop___/) on 7 January 2014. Retrieved 6 January 2014. "...Karen David, 31."
8. "Waterloo Road star Karen David on blockbusters, bullies and Bollywood" (https://www.standard.co.uk/home/waterloo-road-star-karen-david-on-blockbusters-bullies-and-bollywood-7424403.html). *London Evening Standard*. 11 April 2011. Retrieved 24 July 2016.
9. jaymie (18 June 2007). "Multi Talented Karen David is Provoked" (https://web.archive.org/web/20140108160357/http://www.asiancemagazine.com/jun_2007/multi_talented_karen_david_is_provoked). *asiancemagazine.com*. Archived from the original (http://www.asiancemagazine.com/jun_2007/multi_talented_karen_david_is_provoked) on 8 January 2014. Retrieved 8 January 2014.
10. Dattani, Meera (2003). "BritishAsian Films" (https://web.archive.org/web/20121114043704/http://www.close-upfilm.com/features/Featuresarchive/asiamania.htm). *close-upfilm.com*. Archived from the original (http://www.close-upfilm.com/features/Featuresarchive/asiamania.htm) on 14 November 2012. Retrieved 8 January 2014.
11. "Bollywood Queen" (https://mubi.com/en/ca/films/bollywood-queen). Mubi. 2002. Retrieved 8 October 2024.
12. Hainsworth, Jay (19 August 2008). "Babe of the Day: Karen David" (https://web.archive.org/web/20120214174208/http://uk.stars.ign.com/articles/899/899816p1.html). *IGN*. Archived from the original (http://uk.stars.ign.com/articles/899/899816p1.html) on 14 February 2012.

13. Sciarretto, Amy (19 August 2008). "Karen David of 'The Scorpion King 2' " (https://web.archive.org/web/20081013032054/http://www.artistdirect.com/nad/news/article/0,,4758444,00.html). Artistdirect. Archived from the original (http://www.artistdirect.com/nad/news/article/0,,4758444,00.html) on 13 October 2008.
14. Hoffman, Jordan (18 August 2008). "Karen David Fights!" (https://web.archive.org/web/20110615183408/http://www.ugo.com/movies/scorpion-king-2-video-gallery-karen-david). UGO Networks. Archived from the original (http://www.ugo.com/movies/scorpion-king-2-video-gallery-karen-david) on 15 June 2011. Retrieved 16 December 2011.
15. Kirkland, Bruce (18 August 2008). "Scorpion King 2 interview" (https://web.archive.org/web/20160123161525/http://jam.canoe.com/Video/DVD_Column/2008/08/18/6484921-sun.html). *Jam!*. Archived from the original (http://jam.canoe.com/Video/DVD_Column/2008/08/18/6484921-sun.html) on 23 January 2016.
16. "Pixelface | Episodes | Series 2" (https://www.comedy.co.uk/tv/pixelface/episodes/2/). *British Comedy Guide*. Retrieved 9 October 2024.
17. Karen David, Wendy & Lisa (28 February 2012). *Touch-"Three Little Birds"* (https://web.archive.org/web/20120312004534/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yz2HFwRJt_Y) (YouTube). Fox Broadcasting. Archived from the original (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yz2HFwRJt_Y) on 12 March 2012. Retrieved 29 February 2012.
18. "[main page]" (https://web.archive.org/web/20140214111448/http://kd.innersanxtum.com/). Karen David Official Website. Archived from the original (http://kd.innersanxtum.com/) on 14 February 2014. Retrieved 2 February 2014.
19. Jeffery, Morgan (15 January 2013). " 'Waterloo Road' actress Karen David lands 'Castle' role" (https://www.digitalspy.com/tv/ustv/a451118/waterloo-road-actress-karen-david-lands-castle-role/). *Digital Spy*. Retrieved 9 October 2024.
20. Andreeva, Nellie (25 January 2013). "Update: Seriously Injured 'Castle' Stuntman Slowly Improving" (https://deadline.com/2013/01/castle-stuntman-in-hospital-after-on-set-accident-407842/). *Deadline Hollywood*. Retrieved 9 October 2024.
21. "Karen David" (http://www.tubelyrics.org/artist_karen_david-about-14012.html). Tubelyrics.org. 15 April 1979. Retrieved 8 January 2014.
22. "DesiMag - Exclusive - Karen David - Magic Carpet Ride" (https://web.archive.org/web/20110302145557/http://www.desimag.co.uk/music/423.html). *www.desimag.co.uk*. Archived from the original (http://www.desimag.co.uk/music/423.html) on 2 March 2011.
23. "Karen David releases The Live Sessions EP | channelAPA.com" (https://web.archive.org/web/20110907050618/http://www.channelapa.com/2008/04/karen-david-releases-live-sessions-ep.html). *www.channelapa.com*. Archived from the original (http://www.channelapa.com/2008/04/karen-david-releases-live-sessions-ep.html) on 7 September 2011.
24. "KAREN DAVID MAGIC CARPET RIDE OFFICIAL HIGH QUALITY RADIO EDIT | Video Youtube - NMETV Latest Music Videos and Clips | - NME.COM" (https://web.archive.org/web/20130501013240/http://www.nme.com/nme-video/youtube/id/Q2DkMuGmYtg/search/pathaan). *www.nme.com*. Archived from the original (http://www.nme.com/nme-video/youtube/id/Q2DkMuGmYtg/search/pathaan) on 1 May 2013.
25. "Karen David set to 'Hypnotize' fans in BBC's Waterloo Road" (https://web.archive.org/web/20140108154829/http://simplybhangra.com/urbandesi/3523-karen-david-set-to-hypnotize-fans-in-bbcs-waterloo-road). SimplyBhangra.com. Archived from the original (http://simplybhangra.com/urbandesi/3523-karen-david-set-to-hypnotize-fans-in-bbcs-waterloo-road) on 8 January 2014. Retrieved 8 January 2014.
26. Akeela Bhattay (6 September 2013). "Dust to Stars | In Conversation With Brit/Canadian Talent, Karen David" (http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/akeela-bhattay/dust-to-stars--in-conversation-with-britcanadian-talent-karen-david_b_3881367.html). *HuffPost*. Retrieved 8 January 2014.

27. "New Friend of DAA: Karen David" (https://web.archive.org/web/20190105104921/http://www.designersagainstaids.com/friends_of_daa/item/new_friend_of_daa_karen_david). Designers Against AIDS. Archived from the original (http://www.designersagainstaids.com/friends_of_daa/item/new_friend_of_daa_karen_david/) on 5 January 2019. Retrieved 8 January 2014.
28. "Karen David's Charity Pledge" (http://www.thamarai.com/news-details/45097450/karen-davids-charity-pledge.html). Thamarai.com. Retrieved 8 January 2014.
29. "Karen David | Fashionista Barbie" (http://fashionistabarbieuk.com/?s=karen+david). Fashionistabarbieuk.com. Retrieved 8 January 2014.
30. "Karen David set to release her new EP My Christmas List – Desi-Box.com | News, Music Videos, Interviews, Bollywood, Bhangra, Urban" (https://web.archive.org/web/20120305125057/http://www.desi-box.com/media/Urban-News/karen-david-set-to-release-her-new-ep-my-christmas-list.html). Desi-Box.com. 13 December 2010. Archived from the original (http://www.desi-box.com/media/Urban-News/karen-david-set-to-release-her-new-ep-my-christmas-list.html) on 5 March 2012. Retrieved 8 January 2014.
31. "Karen David" (https://web.archive.org/web/20140108163340/http://parents.facebritain.org.uk/whoisinvolved/famousfaces/1/23/). Face Britain. Archived from the original (http://parents.facebritain.org.uk/whoisinvolved/famousfaces/1/23/) on 8 January 2014. Retrieved 8 January 2014.
32. "CARL RYDEN" (https://pittbuhl.com/artists/carlryden.html). *pittbuhl.com*. Retrieved 3 February 2021.
33. "Exclusive interview: actress Karen David chats to HELLO! Online about her wedding" (http://ca.hellomagazine.com/brides/2013071813590/actress-karen-david-chats-to-hello-about-wedding-day/). *Hello!*. 18 July 2013.
34. KarenDavid (10 June 2024). "Hey lovelies. To answer your questions, I can confirm that I'm in the new @CallofDuty #BLACKOPS6 game as a new main character alongside some stellar characters and the talent behind them! 🙏🏾🤲🏾 Here's the new trailer reveal. Guys… be still my beating heart. It's so f***'in epic! Cannot wait for you guys to see and play this game. It takes a huge village of talent in all departments to make this possible. This has been such a thrilling adventure. More news to come in the lead up to October 25th release. 💟🙏🏾🎮" (https://x.com/KarenDavid/status/1800332557483196892). *X (formerly Twitter)*. Retrieved 11 June 2024.

External links

- Karen David (https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1314042/) at IMDb
- Karen David (https://www.discogs.com/artist/984575) discography at Discogs

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Karen_David&oldid=1350651822"